

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method for creating a business process model, the method comprising the steps of:

1. 5        defining an activity state, the activity state  
             corresponding to a human-based or manual step; and  
             identifying one or more performers for the activity  
             state.

1. 10        2. A method as recited in claim 1 further comprising the  
             step of defining reference data, the reference data being  
             information that is to be made available to the performers of the  
             activity state.

1. 15        3. A method as recited in claim 2 wherein the reference  
             data is made exclusively available to the performers of the  
             activity state.

1. 20        4. A method as recited in claim 2 wherein the reference  
             data is also made available to the performers of a second  
             activity state.

1. 25        5. A method as recited in claim 1 further comprising the  
             step of designating the activity state as reassignable to  
             indicate that may be moved between performers.

6. A method as recited in claim 1 wherein the business  
             process model is created using extended UML (Universal Modeling  
             Language) constructs.

1. 30        7. A method for providing a BPM system, the method  
             comprising the steps of:

             receiving an event;  
             causing a business process object to transition to an  
             activity state corresponding to the event;

identifying one or more performers for the activity state; and  
creating a task for each performer.

1. 5           8.    A method as recited in claim 7 further comprising the steps of:

                waiting for each task to be completed; and  
                causing the business process object to transition from the activity state.

1. 10

                9.    A method as recited in claim 7 further comprising the step of providing each performer with reference data for the activity state.

1. 15

                10.   A method as recited in claim 9 wherein the reference data is made exclusively available to the performers of the activity state.

1. 20

                11.   A method as recited in claim 10 wherein the reference data is also made available to the performers of a second activity state.

1. 25

                12.   A method as recited in claim 9 further comprising the step of retrieving modified reference data from one or more of the performers of the activity state.

1. 30

                13.   A method as recited in claim 12 further comprising the step of conditionally selecting a transition out of the activity state based on the retrieved modified reference data.

1. 35

                14.   A method as recited in claim 7 further comprising the steps of:  
                        receiving a second event; and  
                        applying the second event to the activity state only if the event is targeted to the activity state.